

PATENT APPLICATION
Q-65561

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Pierre RIGAUX et al

Appln. No. (37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) Divisional of
U.S. Appln. No. 09/431,080, filed Nov. 1, 1999)

Confirmation No. (Not Yet Known)

Filed: August 29, 2001

For: ELECTRICAL NEUROMUSCULAR STIMULATOR FOR MEASURING
MUSCLE RESPONSES TO ELECTRICAL STIMULATION PULSES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-identified Application, please make the
following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-18 and insert the following new claims 19-28.

19. (New) An electric cable for an electrical neuromuscular stimulator for
measuring muscle reactions generated by electrical stimulation pulses, said stimulator
including an electrical pulse generator arranged in a case of the stimulator for stimulating
muscles, a first end of said electric cable being intended to be connected to an electrode
structure which is adapted to be placed on an user's skin of said muscles to be stimulated,
the other end of said cable being intended to be connected to said case for receiving the
electric pulses from the generator,

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) Divisional of 09/431,080

wherein the cable includes at least one measuring sensor sensitive to the muscle reactions caused by the electric stimulation pulses and arranged for transmitting electric measuring signals representative of said muscle reactions to an electronic means in said case for processing said measuring signals, and

wherein at least one conductor wire of said cable is adapted to connect the electrode independently of the sensor.

20. (New) The electric cable according to claim 19, wherein said first cable end has a connector intended to be connected to said electrode by removable fixing means.

21. (New) The electric cable according to claim 20, wherein the removable fixing means is a snap fastening device also acting as electric contact between the connector and at least one active conducting surface of the electrode.

22. (New) The electric cable according to claim 19, wherein the measuring sensor is an acceleration meter or a microphone integrated in a connector of the first cable end.

23. (New) The electric cable according to claim 22, wherein an electronic processing means is integrated in said electric cable for processing signals received from the sensor.

24. (New) The electric cable according to claim 19, wherein the sensor is in communication with the electronic means of the stimulator via one of a wireless signal transmitting means and a wireless signal receiving means housed in a connector on the first cable end.

25. (New) The electric cable according to claim 24, wherein an electric power source is housed in the connector for supplying power to electronic components of said connector for measuring muscle reactions.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) Divisional of 09/431,080

26. (New) An electric cable for an electrical neuromuscular stimulator for measuring muscle reactions generated by electrical stimulation pulses, said stimulator including an electrical pulse generator arranged in a case of the stimulator for stimulating muscles, a first end of said electric cable being intended to be connected to an electrode structure which is adapted to be placed on an user's skin of said muscles to be stimulated, the other end of said cable being intended to be connected to said case for receiving the electric pulses from the generator,

wherein said first cable end has a connector intended to be connected to said electrode by removable fixing means also acting as electric contact between the connector and at least one active conducting surface of the electrode.

27. (New) The electric cable according to claim 26, wherein the removable fixing means, acting also as electric contact between the connector and at least two active surfaces of the electrode, includes at least two conductive pots intended to be inserted with a certain mechanical resistance in two conductive studs of the electrode, or vice versa, one active surface of said electrode being an electromyographical sensor placed without electric contact beside the other active conductive surface, said sensor being sensible to the muscle reactions caused by the electric stimulation pulses.

28. (New) The electric cable according to claim 26, wherein the removable fixing means is a snap fastening device.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) Divisional of 09/431,080

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were subjected to a Restriction Requirement in Paper No. 9 in parent application 09/431,080.

New claims 19-28 are directed to invention "II...an electric cable " which was non-elected in the parent application.

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Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18 are canceled.

Claims 19-28 are added as new claims.

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